



NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES

The Naval Order of the United States cordially invites you to a presentation by John Wukovits, author of *Dogfight Over Tokyo* and winner of the 2018 Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for *Tin Can Titans*.

Wednesday 12 MAY 2021
8:00pm - 9:00pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time

About the Author

John Wukovits is a military expert specializing in the Pacific theater of World War II. He is the author of many books, including *Tin Can Titans*, *Hell from the Heavens*, *For Crew and Country*, *One Square Mile of Hell*, and *Pacific Alamo*. He has also written numerous articles for such publications as *WWII History*, *Naval History*, and *World War II*. He lives in Michigan.

Dogfight over Tokyo: The Final Air Battle of the Pacific and the Last Four Men to Die in World War II

When Billy Hobbs and his fellow Hellcat aviators from Air Group 88 lifted off from the venerable Navy carrier USS *Yorktown* early on the morning of August 15, 1945, they had no idea they were about to carry out the final air mission of World War II. Two hours later, *Yorktown* received word from Admiral Nimitz that the war had ended and that all offensive operations should cease. As they were turning back, twenty Japanese planes suddenly dove from the sky above them and began a ferocious attack. Four American pilots never returned--men who had lifted off from the carrier in wartime but were shot down during peacetime.

Drawing on participant letters, diaries, and interviews, newspaper and radio accounts, and previously untapped archival records, historian and prolific author of acclaimed Pacific theater books, including *Tin Can Titans* and *Hell from the Heavens*, John Wukovits tells the story of Air Group 88's pilots and crew through their eyes. *Dogfight over Tokyo* is written in the same riveting, edge-of-your-seat style that has made Wukovits's previous books so successful. This is a stirring, one-of-a-kind tale of naval encounters and the last dogfight of the war--a story that is both inspirational and tragic.

Editorial Reviews

"What we know of war usually comes from survivors. This book is about four young flyers who didn't come back. Those who die give up all that they have, all their hopes and dreams, all the infinite potential life offers. Wukovits captures that tragedy in a powerful way. Superb."

—**Stephen Coonts, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"But for one tragic hour, they would have returned safely to the loved ones who worried over them so much. Instead, four Navy fighter pilots became the final combat casualties of World War II. As he did in *Tin Can Titans* and *Hell from the Heavens*, John Wukovits skillfully entwines the personal stories of young men at war with the horrors of the larger conflict. *Dogfight Over Tokyo* is a haunting tale of heroism and sacrifice and the continuing agony of those left to grieve." —**Walter R. Borneman, bestselling author of *Brothers Down: Pearl Harbor and the Fate of the Many Brothers aboard the USS Arizona***

"In this meticulously researched work, John Wukovits provides rare personal insight to the aviators who fought the U.S. Navy's LAST major combat of World War II--and those supporting them on the home front. If it's true that no war

truly ends while some still remember it, then *Dogfight Over Tokyo* extends our national memory of those who brought the world's greatest conflagration to a joyous, painful, and bittersweet end."—**Barrett Tillman, author of *Whirlwind and On Wave and Wing***

"An expertly researched addition to the military history/biography genre"

—**Kirkus Reviews**

John F. Wukovits is a graduate of Notre Dame. His works include articles for *WWII History*, *Naval History*, and *World War II and the following books*.

- *Pacific Alamo: The Battle for Wake Island* New York, N.Y.: New American Library, 2003. [ISBN 0451208730](#) [OCLC 51728802](#)
- *Eisenhower: A Biography* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006. [ISBN 9781403971371](#) [OCLC 65521576](#)
- *One Square Mile of Hell: The Battle for Tarawa* New York: NAL Caliber, 2006. [ISBN 0451218477](#) [OCLC 63125812](#)
- *American Commando: Evans Carlson, His WWII Marine Raiders, and America's First Special Forces Mission* New York: NAL Caliber, 2009. [ISBN 9780451226921](#) [OCLC 268795493](#)
- *Black Sheep: The Life of Pappy Boyington*. Annapolis, Maryland: U.S. Naval Institute, 2013. [ISBN 9781591149804](#) [OCLC 854618214](#)
- *For Crew and Country: The Inspirational True Story of Bravery and Sacrifice Aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2013. [ISBN 9780312681890](#) [OCLC 795172343](#)
- *Hell from the Heavens: The Epic Story of the USS Laffey and World War II's Greatest Kamikaze Attack*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, a member of the Perseus Books Group, 2015.
- *Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*. 2017. [ISBN 9780306824302](#) [OCLC 952369729](#) *Tin Can Titans* received the 2018 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature.

Author gets literature award for WWII book

NOVEMBER 1, 2018 BY [TRENTON TRIB](#)



**John Wukovits at 2015 book signing event at Barnes and Noble in Allen Park.
(Trib file photo/Joe Hoshaw Jr.)**

BY BRIAN RZEPPA

For entire article see: <https://trentontrib.com/author-gets-literature-award-for-wwii-book.html>



John Wukovits is a military expert specializing in the Pacific War. Among his twelve books is *Black Sheep*, a 2011 biography of Gregory Boyington also published by Naval Institute Press, and *Hell from the Heavens*. In 2018 the Michigan native received the prestigious RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book, *Tin Can Titans*.